



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

May 11, 2016

Man Sentenced to Prison for Killing Toddler in South L.A.

A 24-year-old man was sentenced today to 25 years to life in state prison for severely beating a 13-month-old boy, which led to the child's death, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On March 28, a jury found Rodrigo Hernandez guilty of two felony counts in case TA137386: second-degree murder and assault on a child causing death.

Deputy District Attorney Abigail Baron of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said on June 7, 2015, Hernandez was watching his girlfriend's toddler son while the mother was in another room in her South Los Angeles apartment.

Soon after, family members alerted the mother that the child was acting strangely. When the mother went to the child, the boy began to have seizures. Additionally, bruising started to develop on his body, the prosecutor said.

Paramedics were called and the toddler was taken to the hospital where he remained for several weeks until his death on June 26, 2015.

At trial, a coroner's official testified that the child died from blunt force trauma to his abdomen.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

###

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.